



CRS Report for Congress

U.S. Forces in Iraq

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Summary

Varying media estimates of military forces in Iraq have raised concerns about the actual number of troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). As interest in troop level deployments continue, recently, President Bush announced “a new strategy for Iraq” on January 10, 2007, including a planned gradual increase of more than 20,000 U.S. troops on the ground in Baghdad and Anbar province in the coming several months. To accomplish this increase in part, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced on April 11, 2007, that all active-duty Army personnel in the U.S. Central Command area would now serve 15-month tours in the region, up from the previous 12-month rotations. This report provides solely Department of Defense (DOD) statistical information on U.S. forces serving in Iraq. It also provides brief official information on the military units scheduled for the next rotation of duty into Iraq. As of July 1, 2007, according to DOD, the United States had 156,247 troops stationed in Iraq — 133,063 active component and 23,184 National Guard or Reserves. For security reasons, DOD does not routinely report the composition, size, or specific destination of military forces deployed to the Persian Gulf. This report will be updated upon receipt of new DOD data. For additional information on U.S. forces, see CRS Report RL31701, *Iraq: U.S. Military Operations*, by Steve Bowman.

Force Levels

As of July 1, 2007, according to Department of Defense (DOD), the United States had 156,247 military personnel deployed in Iraq. Of these, 133,063 were active component personnel and 23,184 were National Guard and Reserves. **Figures 1 and 2** provide the distribution by armed service of active component personnel. These totals do not include 12,000 military support personnel in Kuwait, nor naval personnel aboard ships patrolling through the Persian Gulf.¹

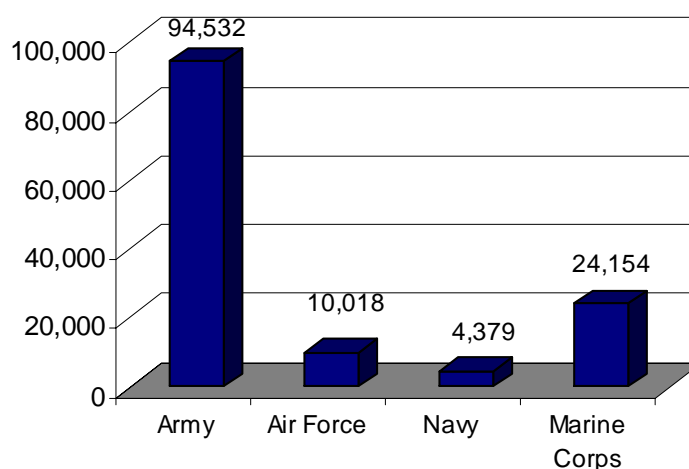
Amid concerns about U.S. troop levels, in a January 10, 2007 address to the nation, President Bush announced an increase of more than 20,000 U.S. troops to be deployed to

¹ DOD Fact Sheet, *Global Commitments*, January 9, 2007.

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Iraq during the next several months as part of a new initiative in ongoing efforts to stabilize the security situation. As announced, these forces will primarily be deployed to Baghdad and Anbar province, the major current areas of unrest and conflict in Iraq. These additional force levels were originally to be accomplished primarily by a stepped-up pace of military unit rotations into Iraq and a delay for some personnel departures from that country. However, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced on April 11, 2007, that all active-duty Army personnel in the U.S. Central Command area will now serve 15-month tours in the region effective immediately, up from the previous 12-month tour rotations.² These forces will gradually be added to the personnel stationed in Iraq, as reported by DOD on January 1, 2007. Additional deployment information is available from DOD's Directorate for Information Operations, which posts quarterly reports on casualties and worldwide active-duty military personnel deployments by region and country. [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/MILITARY/Miltop.htm>]

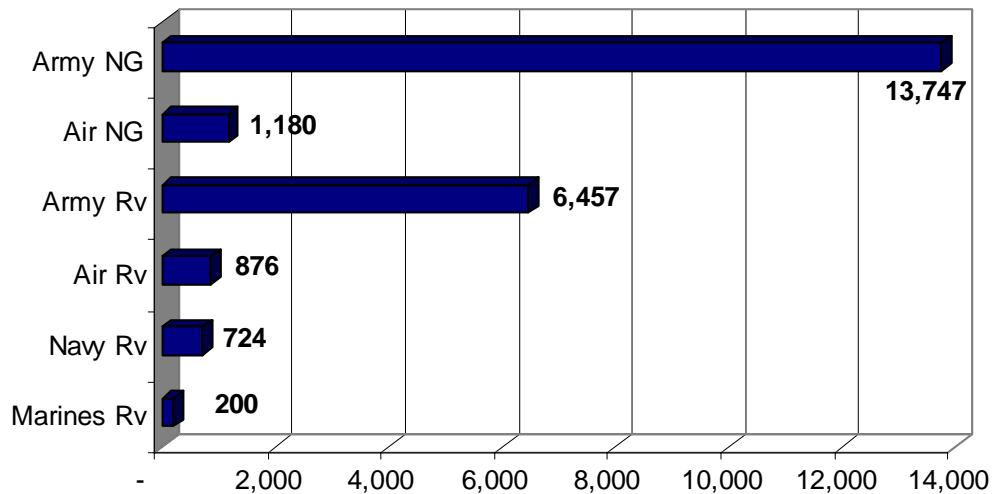
**Figure 1. Active Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of July 1, 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, "Boots on Ground" data.

² American Forces Press Service, *Gates Extends Army Tours in Iraq to 15 Months*, April 11, 2007.

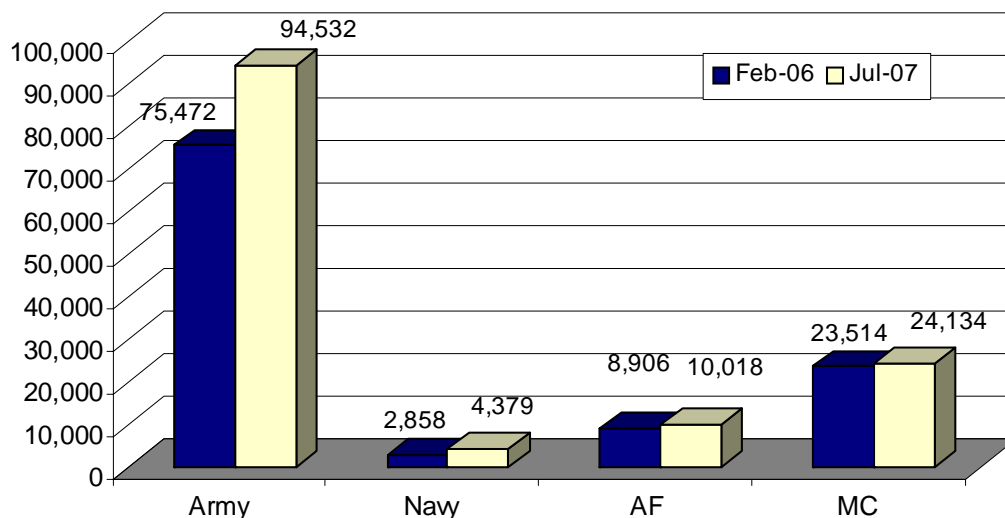
**Figure 2. Reserve Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of July 1, 2007)**



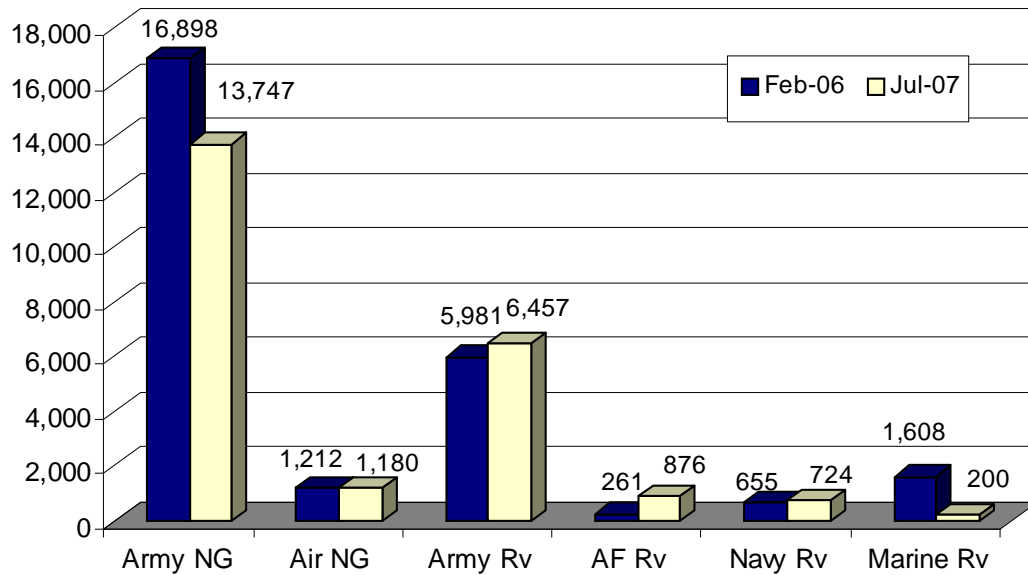
Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Comparative Operation Iraqi Freedom U.S. Force Levels. Overall U.S. force levels in Iraq have declined from November 2005 to February 2007, particularly the Reserve Component. A slight increase in deployments occurred beginning in March 2007. Based on DOD statistics, **Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6** provide comparative data on both active and reserve component force levels. DOD officials have declined to project the timing or size of future force reductions, noting these will depend upon the security situation within Iraq.

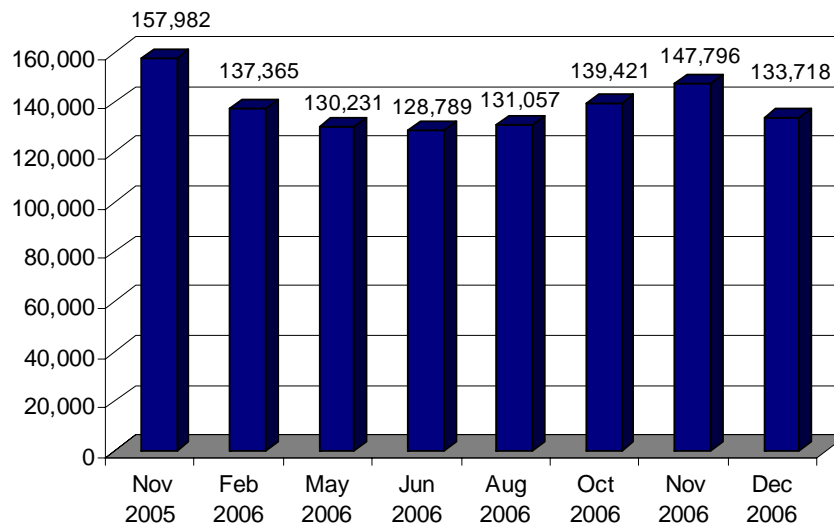
Figure 3. OIF Active Component Force Levels (Feb 2006/July 2007)



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

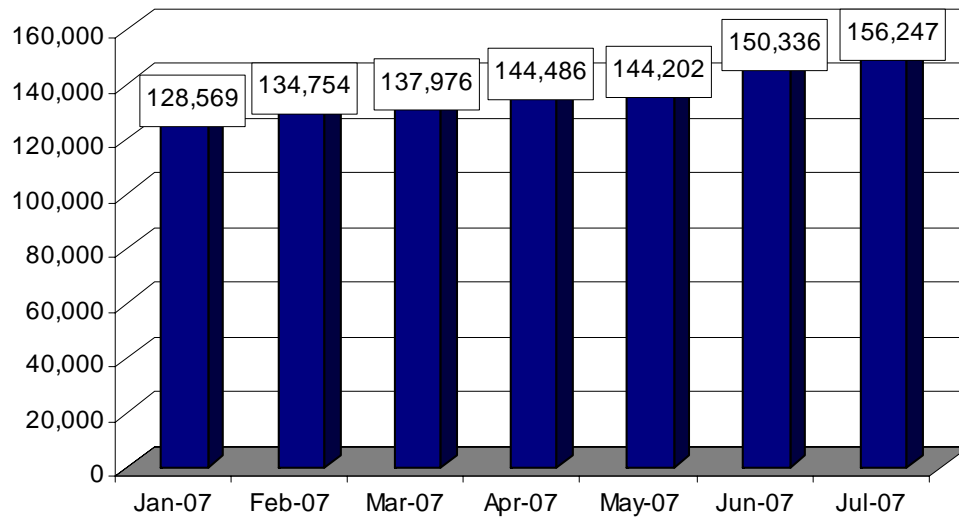
Figure 4. OIF Reserve Component Force Levels (Feb 2006/July 2007)

Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Figure 5. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq (Nov 2005-Dec 2006)

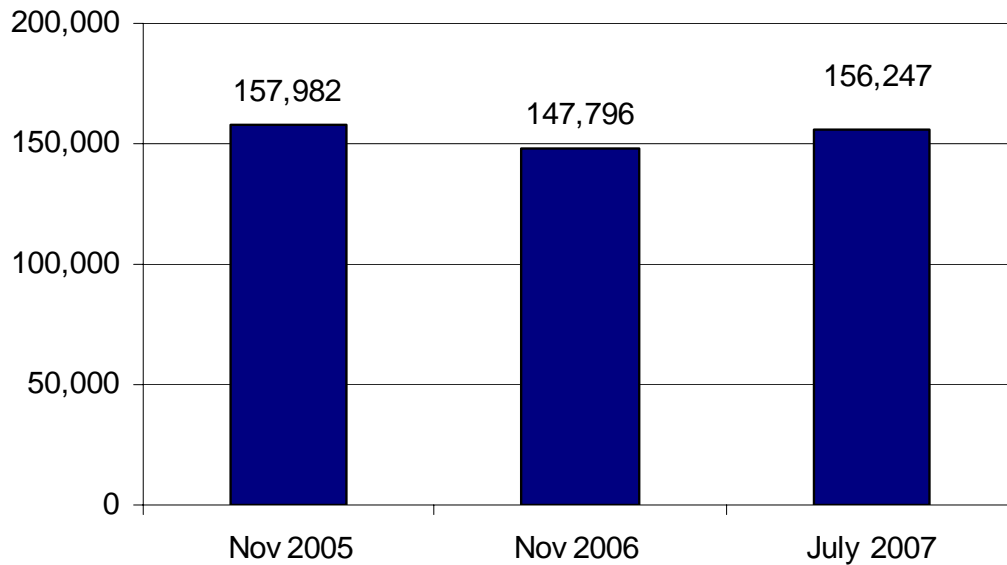
Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data, November 1, 2005 through January 1, 2007.

**Figure 6. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq
(Jan 2007-July 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chief of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data, January 1, 2007 through July 1, 2007.

**Figure 7. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq
(Years 2005, 2006, and 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Operation Iraqi Freedom Troop Rotations. On May 8, 2007, DOD announced its latest scheduled troop deployment and adjustments for unit rotations to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). These mid- to late 2007 scheduled deployments to Iraq involve 10 brigade combat teams consisting of approximately 35,000 personnel and are summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom Mid- to Late 2007 Rotational Units

Military Unit	Home Military Base	Rotation to Iraq
Army		
3 rd Armored Cavalry Regiment	Fort Hood, TX	August, 2007
1 st Brigade, 101 st Airborne Division	Fort Campbell, KY	August or later, 2007
3 rd Brigade, 101 st Airborne Division	Fort Campbell, KY	August or later, 2007
2 nd Brigade, 101 st Airborne Division	Fort Campbell, KY	August or later, 2007
4 th Brigade, 10 th Mountain Division	Fort Polk, LA	August or later, 2007
1 st Brigade, 4 th Infantry Division	Fort Hood, TX	August or later, 2007
4 th Brigade, 3 rd Infantry Division	Fort Stewart, GA	August or later, 2007
2 nd Brigade, 25 th Infantry Division	Schofield Barracks, HI	August or later, 2007
2 nd Cavalry Regiment (Stryker)	Vilseck, Germany	August or later, 2007
2 nd Brigade, 1 st Armored Division	Baumholder, Germany	August or later, 2007

Source: DOD News Release May 8, 2007.

These rotations and extensions of active duty Army tours to 15 months will eventually build and maintain U.S. military capacity at 20 brigade or regimental combat teams on the ground in Iraq.